ANNUAL BIBLE READER

Adapted from the Traditional Office of Matins

It is pious practice to read the entire Bible every year. This annual reading plan was derived from the traditional readings in the office of Matins in the Divine Office. Each year, most of the books of the Bible are read in this office. This custom is derived from the Rule of St. Benedict. However, these books are not read in their entirety nor is every book read.

As much as possible, this reader preserves the existing Matins cycle but adds the missing sections and missing books into an annual cycle which covers the whole Bible. Some books, such as I and II Esdras, have no place in the traditional cycle and were given a place based on thematic content. These are distinguished in the introduction by the phrase "The Church reads…" indicating the traditional office, whereas "Because of [this reason]" introduces a book's reading according to this arrangement.

The wisdom books of Proverbs, Ecclesiasticus and Ecclesiastes are traditionally read in the Fall but have been distributed instead into a daily reading on weekdays after Pentecost to make room for the books left out, such as Paralipomenon.

In addition, this reading plan does not include the Psalms, since these are prayers and would normally be prayed weekly from the Divine Office. Finally, the Gospel cycle is loosely based on the New Lectionary, since there is no parallel which reads the entire Gospels throughout the year in the traditional cycle. (As an alternative, the reader can also follow the New Lectionary for the Gospels only, but he will need to also add in the parts of the Gospels that are missing.)

Depending on your reading style, this plan takes 15-20 minutes per day, six days a week. However, during Lent and Paschaltide (as well as around October and November) there are times when the reading is more lengthy. If there are any longer readings, they are usually placed on Sunday according to the custom of Matins. Also, because of the variable length of certain Church seasons, the reading schedule must shift in places where noted. See also the list of abbreviations and book names at the end of this guide.

Advent

During Advent the Church reads the Prophecy of Isaias for its sublime prophecies concerning our Lord. Because Advent is the coming of Incarnate Wisdom, the Wisdom of Solomon is also read at this time. No Gospel is read otherwise than in the Missal.

Note: the fourth week of Advent is variable, so the plan is divided as if Christmas would fall on a Wednesday. The reader must read more or less per day during the O Antiphons (Dec. 17-24) in order to finish before Christmas.

	Sun.	**Mon.**	**Tues.**	**Wed.**	**Thurs.**	**Fri.**
I Advent	Is. 1-3 Wis. 1	Is. 4-6 Wis. 2	Is. 7-9 Wis. 3	Is. 10-12 Wis. 4	Is. 13-15 Wis. 5	Is. 16-18 Wis. 6
II Advent	Is. 19-21 Wis. 7	Is. 22-24 Wis. 8	Is. 25-27 Wis. 9	Is. 28-30 Wis. 10	Is. 31-33 Wis. 11	Is. 34-36 Wis. 12
III Advent	Is. 37-39 Wis. 13	Is. 40-42 Wis. 14	Is. 43-45 Wis. 15	Is. 46-48 Wis. 16	Is. 49-51 Wis. 17	Is. 52-54 Wis. 18
IV Advent	Is. 55-58 Wis. 19	Is. 59-62	Is. 63-66			

Christmas and Epiphanytide

Because Christmas manifests the union between God and Man in Christ's Incarnation, the Canticle of Canticles is read during the Octave of Christmas. This book is a mystical prophecy of the coming of Christ and His Church.

During Epiphanytide, the manifestation of Christ to the world, the Church reads the epistles of the Doctor of the Gentiles, St. Paul. The Gospel of St. Mark is also read at this time.

Note: because Epiphanytide varies, the reader will need to consider when Septuagesima starts and finish Hebrews and St. Mark before then. He can begin early if there is time between Epiphany and the 1st Sunday after Epiphany, or else finish these readings if the Sundays after Epiphany resume before Advent.

12/25 Cant. 1	**12/26** Cant. 2	**12/27** Cant. 3	**12/28** Cant. 4	**12/29** Cant. 5 Rom. 1-2	**12/30** Cant. 6 Rom. 3-4	**12/31** Cant. 7 Rom. 5-6
1/1 Cant. 8 Rom. 7-8	**1/2** Rom. 9-10	**1/3** Rom. 11-12	**1/4** Rom. 13-14	**1/5** Rom. 15-16	**1/6** **Epiphany**	

After Epiphany	**Sun.**	**Mon.**	**Tues.**	**Wed.**	**Thur.**	**Fri.**
I Sun. *Mark 1-3*	I Cor. 1-3	I Cor. 4-6	I Cor. 7-9	I Cor. 10-12	I Cor. 13-14	I Cor. 15-16
II Sun. *Mark 4-6*	II Cor. 1-3	II Cor. 4-5	II Cor. 6-7	II Cor. 8-9	II Cor. 10-11	II Cor. 12-13
III Sun. *Mark 7-9*	Gal. 1-2	Gal. 3-4	Gal. 5-6	Eph. 1-2	Eph. 3-4	Eph. 5-6
IV Sun. *Mark 10-12*	Philip. 1-4	Col. 1-2	Col. 3-4	I Thess. 1-3	I Thess. 4-5	II Thess. 1-3
V Sun. *Mark 13-15*	I Tim. 1-3	I Tim. 4-6	II Tim. 1-2	II Tim. 3-4	Titus 1-3	Philemon
VI Sun. *Mark 16*	Heb. 1-3	Heb. 4-5	Heb. 6-7	Heb. 8-9	Heb. 10-11	Heb. 12-13

Septuagesima and the Great Fast of Lent

The readings in Septuagesima and Lent are longer, as befits the penitential character of the season. Beginning in Septuagesima the Church reads the books of Moses beginning with Genesis, telling of the Fall of our first parents and the struggle of their just descendants with the wicked line of Cane. Exodus centers on the Paschal sacrifice of the Lamb of God. Leviticus on the purification from sin.

The Book of Numbers begins at Passiontide, as this book contains the story of Moses lifting up the serpent (a typos of our Lord's Passion, Jn. iii. 14) and many other salutary stories. This book concludes the narrative of Israel's journey for 40 years as a typos of the Great Fast of 40 days.

Passiontide also begins the Prophesy of Jeremias, which contains many typoi of the Passion of our Lord. From Spy Wednesday through Holy Saturday, the Lamentations are read as at Tenebrae, as well as Baruch.

	Sun.	**Mon.**	**Tues.**	**Wed.**	**Thurs.**	**Fri.**
Sept.	Gen. 1-5	Gen. 6-8	Gen. 9-11	Gen. 12-14	Gen. 15-17	Gen. 18-19
Quin.	Gen. 20-25	Gen. 26-28	Gen. 29-31	Gen. 32-34	Gen. 35-37	Gen. 38-39
Sexa.	Gen. 40-42	Gen. 43-44	Gen. 45-46	**Ash Wed.**	Gen.47-48	Gen. 49-50
1 Lent	Ex. 1-5	Ex. 6-8	Ex. 9-11	Ex. 12-14	Ex. 15-17	Ex. 18-20
2 Lent	Ex. 21-26	Ex. 27-29	Ex. 30-32	Ex. 33-35	Ex. 36-38	Ex. 39-40
3 Lent	Lev. 1-3	Lev. 4-5	Lev. 6-7	Lev. 8-9	Lev. 10-11	Lev. 12-13
4 Lent	Lev. 14-17	Lev. 18-19	Lev. 20-21	Lev. 22-23	Lev. 24-25	Lev. 26-27
Passion	Num. 1-4 Jer. 1-5	Num. 5-8 Jer. 6-10	Num. 9-12 Jer. 11-15	Num. 13-16 Jer. 16-20	Num. 17-20 Jer. 21-25	Num. 21-24 Jer. 26-30
Palm	Num. 25-29 Jer. 31-35	Num. 30-33 Jer. 36-40	Num. 34-36 Jer. 41-45	**Spy Wed.** Jer. 46-52	**Holy Thurs.** Lam. 1-3 Bar. 1-3	**Good Fri.** Lam. 4-5 Bar. 4-6

Paschaltide

Because of its theme of return from exile, I Esdras is read during the Octave of Easter with its accompanying prophecy, Aggeus. This is then continued in Pentecost week with II Esdras and Zacharias.

During Paschaltide the Church reads the Gospel St. John, as the catechumenate has now entered the mystagogy, when the mysteries of the faith are expounded to the newly enlightened faithful.

For this reason too, the book of Deuteronomy is read, which retells the story of Exodus-Numbers before entering the battle against the Canaanites. Since the Gentile nations are typoi of the seven deadly sins, Paschaltide now refreshes us before entering again into the rigor of spiritual combat. Thus continues the saga of Israel from Josue through Ruth before the time after Pentecost begins the story of David, the anointed typoi of our Lord.

During this time the Church also reads the book of Acts, as well as the Catholic epistles. The readings are more extensive through this time, as the faithful are refreshed with the joyous Alleluia of the Resurrection.

	Sun.	**Mon.**	**Tues.**	**Wed.**	**Thur.**	**Fri.**
Easter	I Esd. 1-2 Ag. 1:1-11	I Esd. 3-4 Ag. 1:12-15	I Esd. 5-6 Ag. 2:1-9	I Esd. 7-8 Ag. 2:10-19	I Esd. 9 Ag. 2:20-23	I Esd. 10
Low Sun	Jn. 1 Acts 1-2 Dt. 1-3	Jn. 2 Acts 3 Dt. 4-6	Jn. 3 Acts 4 Dt. 7-9	Jn. 4 Acts 5 Dt. 10-12	Jn. 5 Acts 6 Dt. 13-15	Jn. 6:1-15 Acts 7 Dt. 16-17
2 Sun. after Easter	Jn. 6:16-21 Acts 8-9 Dt. 18-20	Jn. 6:22-59 Acts 10 Dt. 21-23	Jn. 6:60-71 Acts 11 Dt. 24-26	Jn. 7 Acts 12 Dt. 27-29	Jn. 8 Acts 13 Dt. 30-32	Jn. 9 Acts 14 Dt. 33-34
3 Sun. after Easter	Jn. 10 Acts 15-16 Jos. 1-2	Jn. 11 Acts 17 Jos. 3-4	Jn. 12 Acts 18 Jos. 5-6	Jn. 13 Acts 19 Jos. 7-8	Jn. 14 Acts 20 Jos. 9-10	Jn. 15 Acts 21 Jos. 11-12
4 Sun. after Easter	Jn. 16 Acts 22-23 Jos. 13-14	Jn. 17 Acts 24 Jos. 15-16	Jn. 18 Acts 25 Jos. 17-18	Jn. 19 Acts 26 Jos. 19-20	Jn. 20 Acts 27 Jos. 21-22	Jn. 21 Acts 28 Jos. 23-24
5 Sun. after Easter	Ja. 1-3 Jdg. 1-3	**Rogation** Ja. 4-5 Jdg. 4-6	**Rogation** I Pt. 1-3 Jdg. 7-9	**Rogation** I Pt. 4-5 Jdg. 10-2	**Ascension**	Jdg. 13-15
Sun. after Ascen.	II Pt. 1-3 Jdg. 16-7	I Jn. 1-3 Jdg. 18-9	I Jn. 4-5 Jdg. 20-1	II Jn. 1 Ruth 1-2	III Jn. 1 Ruth 3-4	Jude
Pente	II Esd. 1-3	II Esd. 4-5	II Esd. 6-7	II Esd. 8-9	II Esd.10-1	II Esd.12-3

cost	Zach. 1-4	Zach 5-6	Zach 7-8	Zach 9-10	Zach 11-12	Zach 13-4

Time After Pentecost

During this time is read the Gospels of St. Matthew and St. Luke, and the Church reads the rest of the Scriptures, continuing the saga of Israel with David the King. Because the Christian soldier is in need of daily wisdom, the wisdom books are read daily through the 19th Sunday after Pentecost. At the end of the year the Maccabean saga is read with the Apocalypse and the final prophets, anticipating the Advent of Jesus Christ at the end of the world.

	Sun.	**Mon.**	**Tues.**	**Wed.**	**Thurs.**	**Fri.**
Trinity	Mt. 1-4 1Kngs 1-3	Mt. 5:1-12 Prov. 1 1Kngs 4-6	Mt. 5:12-19 Prov. 2 1Kngs 7-9	Mt. 5:20-26 Prov. 3 1Kg 10-11	Mt. 5:27-32 Prov. 4 1Kg 12-13	Mt. 5:33-37 Prov. 5 1Kg 14-15
2 Sun.	Mt. 5:38-48 1Kg 16-19	Mt. 6:1-6 Prov. 6 1Kg 20-22	Mt. 6:7-15 Prov. 7 1Kg 23-25	Mt. 6:16-18 Prov. 8 1Kg 26-27	Mt. 6:19-23 Prov. 9 1Kg 28-29	Mt. 6:24-34 Prov. 10 1Kg 30-31
3 Sun.	Mt. 7:1-5 2 Kg 1-2	Mt. 7:6-11 Prov. 11 2 Kg 3-4	Mt. 7:12-14 Prov. 12 2 Kg 5-6	Mt. 7:15-20 Prov. 13 2 Kg 7-8	Mt. 7:21-29 Prov. 14 2 Kg 9-10	Mt. 8:1-17 Prov. 15 2 Kg. 11-12
4 Sun.	Mt. 8:18-22 2 Kg. 13-14	Mt. 8:23-27 Prov. 16 2 Kg. 15-16	Mt. 8:28-34 Prov. 17 2 Kg. 17-18	Mt. 9:1-8 Prov. 18 2 Kg. 19-20	Mt. 9:9-17 Prov. 19 2 Kg. 21-22	Mt. 9:18-26 Prov. 20 2 Kg. 23-24
5 Sun.	Mt. 9:27-31 3 Kg. 1-2	Mt. 9:32-38 Prov. 21 3 Kg. 3-4	Mt. 10:1-7 Prov. 22 3 Kg. 5-6	Mt. 10:8-15 Prov. 23 3 Kg. 7-8	Mt. 10:16-23 Prov. 24 3 Kg. 9-10	Mt. 10:24-33 Prov. 25 3 Kg. 11
6 Sun.	Mt. 10:34-42 3 Kg. 12-13	Mt. 11:1-19 Prov. 26 3 Kg. 14-15	Mt. 11:20-30 Prov. 27 3 Kg. 16-17	Mt. 12:1-8 Prov. 28 3 Kg. 18-19	Mt. 12:9-37 Prov. 29 3 Kg. 20-21	Mt. 12:38-50 Prov. 30-31 3 Kg. 22
7 Sun.	Mt. 13:1-17 Eccl. 1 4 Kg. 1-3	Mt. 13:18-35 Eccl. 2 4 Kg. 4-5	Mt. 13:36-58 Eccl. 3 4 Kg. 6-7	Mt. 14:1-21 Eccl. 4 4 Kg. 8-9	Mt. 14:22-36 Eccl. 5 4 Kg. 10-11	Mt. 15:1-20 Eccl. 6 4 Kg. 12-13
8 Sun.	Mt.15:29-39 Eccl. 7 4 Kg. 14-15	Mt. 16:1-12 Eccl. 8	Mt. 16:13-28 Eccl. 9	Mt. 17:1-21 Eccl. 10	Mt. 17:22-27 Eccl. 11 4 Kg. 22-23	Mt. 18:1-20 Eccl. 12 4 Kg. 24-25

		4 Kg. 16-17	4 Kg. 18-19	4Kg. 20-21		
9 Sun.	Mt. 18:21-35 1 Par. 1-3	Mt. 19:1-15 Ecclus. 1 1Par. 4-6	Mt. 19:16-30 Ecclus. 2 1 Par. 7-9	Mt. 20:1-19 Ecclus. 3 1 Par. 10-1	Mt.20:20-28 Ecclus. 4 1 Par. 12-3	Mt. 20:29-34 Ecclus. 5 1 Par. 14-5
10 Sun.	Mt. 21:1-22 1 Par. 16-18	Mt. 21:23-32 Ecclus. 6 1 Par. 19-21	Mt. 21:33-46 Ecclus. 7 1 Par. 22-23	Mt. 22:1-14 Ecclus. 8 1 Par. 24-25	Mt. 22:15-33 Ecclus. 9 1 Par. 26-27	Mt. 22:34-46 Ecclus. 10 1 Par .28-29
11 Sun.	Mt. 23:1-12 2 Par. 1-3	Mt. 23:13-24 Ecclus. 11 2 Par. 4-6	Mt. 23:25-39 Ecclus. 12 2 Par. 7-9	Mt. 24:1-14 Ecclus. 13 2 Par. 10-12	Mt. 24:15-35 Ecclus. 14 2 Par. 13-15	Mt. 24:36-51 Ecclus. 15 2 Par. 16-18

	Sun.	**Mon.**	**Tues.**	**Wed.**	**Thurs.**	**Fri.**
12 Sun	Mt. 25:1-30 2 Par. 19-21	Mt. 25:31-36 Ecclus. 16 2 Par. 22-24	Mt. 26:1-25 Ecclus. 17 2 Par. 25-27	Mt.26:26-46 Ecclus. 18 2 Par. 28-30	Mt. 26:47-56 Ecclus. 19 2 Par. 31-33	Mt. 26:57-75 Ecclus. 20 2 Par. 34-36
13 Sun	Mt. 27:1-23 Job 1-5	Mt. 27:24-31 Ecclus. 21 Job 6-8	Mt. 27:32-44 Ecclus. 22 Job 9-11	Mt. 27:45-66 Ecclus. 23 Job 12-14	Mt. 28:1-15 Ecclus. 24 Job 15-17	Mt. 28:16-20 Ecclus. 25 Job 18-20
14 Sun	Lk. 1 Job 21-25	Lk. 2 Ecclus. 26 Job 26-29	Lk. 3:1-22 Ecclus. 27 Job 30-33	Lk. 3:23-38 Ecclus. 28 Job 34-36	Lk. 4:1-30 Ecclus. 29 Job 37-39	Lk. 4:31-44 Ecclus. 30 Job 40-42
15 Sun	Lk. 5:1-16 Tob. 1-4	Lk. 5:17-26 Ecclus. 31 Tob. 5-6	Lk. 5:27-39 Ecclus. 32 Tob. 7-8	Lk. 6:1-16 Ecclus. 33 Tob. 9-10	Lk. 6:17-36 Ecclus. 34 Tob. 11-12	Lk. 6:37-49 Ecclus. 35 Tob .13-14
16 Sun	Lk. 7:1-17 Judith 1-4	Lk. 7:18-35 Ecclus. 36 Judith 5-7	Lk. 7:36-50 Ecclus. 37 Judith 8-10	Lk. 8:1-21 Ecclus. 38 Jud. 11-12	Lk. 8:22-39 Ecclus. 39 Jud. 13-14	Lk. 8:40-56 Ecclus. 40 Jud. 15-16
17 Sun	Lk. 9:1-17 Esther 1-4	Lk. 9:18-36 Ecclus. 41 Esther 5-7	Lk. 9:37-62 Ecclus. 42 Esth. 8-10	Lk. 10:1-16 Ecclus. 43 Esth. 11-12	Lk. 10:17-24 Ecclus. 44 Esth. 13-14	Lk. 10:25-42 Ecclus. 45 Esth. 15-16
18 Sun	Lk. 11:1-13 1 Mach. 1-	Lk. 11:14-36 Ecclus. 46 1 Mach. 4	Lk. 11:37-53 Ecclus. 47 1 Mach. 5	Lk. 12:1-21 Ecclus. 48 1 Mach. 6	Lk. 12:22-40 Ecclus. 49 1 Mach. 7	Lk. 12:41-59 Ecc. 50-51 1 Mach. 8

	3					
19 Sun	Lk. 13:1-9 1 Mach. 9-11 Ez. 1-3	Lk. 13:10-21 1 Mach. 12 Ez. 4-6	Lk. 13:22-35 1 Mach. 13 Ez. 7-8	Lk. 14:1-14 1 Mach. 14 Ez. 9-10	Lk. 14:15-24 1 Mach. 15 Ez. 11-12	Lk. 14:25-34 1 Mach. 16 Ez. 13-14
20 Sun	Lk. 15:1-7 2 Mach 1-2 Ez. 15-17	Lk. 15:8-10 2 Mach 3 Ez. 18-20	Lk. 15:11-32 2 Mach 4 Ez. 21-23	Lk. 16:1-13 2 Mach 5 Ez. 24-26	Lk. 16:14-18 2 Mach 6 Ez. 27-28	Lk. 16:19-31 2 Mach 7 Ez. 29-30
21 Sun	Lk. 17:1-10 2 Mach. 8-10 Ez. 31-34	Lk. 17:11-19 2 Mach. 11 Ez. 35-37	Lk. 17:20-37 2 Mach. 12 Ez. 38-40	Lk. 18:1-14 2 Mach. 13 Ez. 41-43	Lk. 18:15-30 2 Mach. 14 Ez. 44-46	Lk. 18:31-43 2 Mach. 15 Ez. 47-48
22 Sun	Lk. 19:1-27 Dan. 1-4 Osee 1-4	Lk. 19:28-40 Dan. 5-6 Osee 5-6	Lk. 19:41-48 Dan. 7-8 Osee 7-8	Lk. 20:1-18 Dan. 9-10 Osee 9-10	Lk. 20:19-26 Dan. 11-12 Osee 11-12	Lk. 20:27-47 Dan. 13-14 Osee 13-14
23 Sun	Lk. 21:1-9 Apoc. 1-2 Joel 1-3	Lk. 21:10-28 Apoc. 3-4 Amos 1-5	Lk. 21:29-38 Apoc. 5-6 Amos 6-9	Lk. 22:1-23 Apoc. 7-8 Abdias	Lk. 22:24-38 Apoc. 9-10 Jonas 1-4	Lk. 22:39-71 Apoc. 11 Mich. 1-4
24 Sun	Lk. 23:1-12 Apoc. 12-13 Mich. 5-7	Lk. 23:13-43 Apoc. 14-15 Nahum 1-3	Lk. 23:44-56 Apoc. 16-17 Hab. 1-3	Lk. 24:1-12 Apoc. 18-19 Soph. 1-3	Lk. 24:13-35 Apoc. 20-21 Mal. 1-2	Lk. 24:36-53 Apoc. 22 Mal. 3-4

Books and abbreviations

Douay-Rheims	Also Known As	Abbreviation
Genesis Exodus Leviticus Numbers Deuteronomy	- - - - -	Gen. Ex. Lev. Num. Dt.
Joshua Judges Ruth	- - -	Josh. Jdg. Rth.
I Kings II Kings III Kings IV Kings	I Samuel II Samuel I Kings II Kings	Kngs.
I Paralipomenon II Paralipomenon	I Chronicles II Chronicles	Para.
I Esdras II Esdras	Ezra Nehemiah	Esd.
Tobias Judith Esther	Tobit - -	Tob. Jud. Est.
Job Psalms Proverbs Ecclesiastes Canticle of Canticles Wisdom Ecclesiasticus	- - - - Song of Songs - Sirach	Job Ps. Prov. Eccl. Cant. Wis. Ecclus.
Isaias Jeremias Lamentations Baruch Ezechiel Daniel	Isaiah Jeremiah - - Ezekiel -	Is. Jer. Lam. Bar. Ez. Dan.
Osee Joel Amos	Hosea - -	Os. Joel Amos

Abdias	Obadiah	Abd.
Jonas	Jonah	Jonas
Micheas	Micah	Mich.
Nahum	-	Nah.
Habacuc	Habakkuk	Hab.
Sophonias	Zephaniah	Soph.
Aggaeus	Haggai	Agg.
Zacharias	Zechariah	Zach.
Malachias	Malachi	Mal.
I Machabees	-	Mach.
II Machabees	-	
Matthew	-	Mt.
Mark	-	Mk.
Luke	-	Lk.
John	-	Jn.
Acts	-	Acts
Romans	-	Rom.
I Corinthians	-	I Cor.
II Corinthians	-	II Cor.
Galatians	-	Gal.
Ephesians	-	Eph.
Philippians	-	Philip.
Colossians	-	Col.
I Thessalonians	-	I Thess.
II Thessalonians	-	II Thess.
I Timothy	-	I Tim.
II Timothy	-	II Tim.
Titus	-	Tit.
Philemon	-	Philem.
Hebrews	-	Heb.
James	-	Ja.
I Peter	-	I Pt.
II Peter	-	II Pt.
I John	-	I Jn.
II John	-	II Jn.
III John	-	III Jn.
Jude	-	Jd.
Apocalypse	Revelation	Apoc.

Prayers for Before and After Reading the Holy Scriptures

Prayer before reading the Holy Scriptures

O King of Glory, Lord of Hosts, Who didst triumphantly ascend the heavens, leave us not as orphans, but send us the Promised of the Father, the Spirit of Truth.

We implore Thee, O Lord, that the Consoler, Who proceededth from Thee, will enlighten our souls and infuse into them all truth, as Thy Son hath promised.

O God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, vouchsafe to grant us, according to the riches of Thy glory that Christ by faith may dwell in our hearts, which rooted and grounded in charity, may acknowledge the love of Christ, surpassing all knowledge. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer after reading the Holy Scriptures (St. Bede)

Let me not, O Lord, be puffed up with worldly wisdom, which passes away, but grant me that love which never abates, that I may not choose to know anything among men, but Jesus, and Him crucified.

Prayer before reading the Holy Gospel (Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom)

Illumine our hearts, O Master who lovest mankind, with the pure light of thy divine knowledge, and open the eyes of our mind to the understanding of Thy Gospel teaching; implant in us also the fear of Thy blessed commandments, that trampling down all carnal desires, we may enter upon a spiritual manner of living, both thinking and doing such things as are well-pleasing unto Thee: for Thou art the illumination of our souls and bodies, O Christ our God, and unto thee we send up glory, together with Thy Father who is from everlasting, and Thine all-holy, good, and life- creating Spirit: now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Prayer before Reading the Scripture (St. John Chrysostom)

O Lord Jesus Christ, open the eyes of my heart that I may hear Thy word, and understand and do Thy will, for I am a sojourner upon the Earth. Hide not Thy commandments from me, but open my eyes, that I may perceive the wonders of Thy Law.

Speak unto me the hidden and secret things of Thy wisdom. On Thee do I set my hope, O my God, that Thou shalt enlighten my mind and understanding with the light of Thy knowledge; not only to cherish those things which are written, but to do them; that in reading the lives and sayings of the Saints I may not sin, but that such may serve for my restoration, enlightenment and sanctification, for the salvation of my soul, and the inheritance of life everlasting. For Thou art the enlightenment of those who lie in darkness, and from Thee comes every good deed and every gift. Amen